THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 14, 1806.

History of the British Navy, from its Origin to its present glorious State.

[From the First Report of the Commissioners for Revising and Digesting the Civil Affairs of his Majesty's Navy.]

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

THE first report of the commissioners appointed to revise the system and mode of accounting for the receipt and expenditure of money and stores; and likewise the instructions and standing orders for the government of the civil departments of his majesty's naval service; and to arrange and frame a regular digest of the same, having it carefully in view to adapt the mode of accounting for monies and stores, and likewise the whole body of such orders and instructions, to the present extensive scale of the naval service; and to take measures for keeping up the said system and digest in all time to come: And who were further required to take into their particular consideration, all such suggestions as have been made by the different boards of enquiry and select committee on finance, and have not yet been adopted; and to examine which of the same appear to be practicable and consistent with the good of the service, and to consider and devise the best means of carrying the same into execution, in the most convenient and expeditious manner, and to report on all the matters aforesaid, from time to time, as they shall see occasion.

WE have proceeded to the execution of the trust, which your majesty has been pleased to repose in us, in the order

which seemed the most likely to enable us to accomplish the objects for which we were appointed.

With this view we have not only considered, with great attention, the many useful suggestions in the very able reports of the different boards of enquiry, and select committee on finance, but have deemed it necessary also, carefully to peruse all such official or other authentic documents, as could give us information concerning the administration of the civil affairs of the navy, from the earliest times.

By observing what changes have, at different times, taken place in the system of management; what abuses have prevailed; what means have been tried to prevent their continuance; and what success has attended the measures, which, on former occasions, have been adopted; we thought it probable that we might receive information that would assist us in judging of the alterations which might now be necessary, to adapt the whole to the present very extensive scale of the naval service; and that by comparing what was accomplished in times of the greatest exertion, by the number of artificers and labourers then employed, with what is now done in the royal dock yards, as well as by obtaining information from merchants-builders of the work performed by the numbers employed in private yards; additional means might be acquired of judging of the industry of those at present in your majesty's service. From the whole, we hoped to be able to form some estimate of what may, in future, be expected, and of the establishment which may, under proper regulations, be adequate to the management and support of the naval force, which may be deemed necessary for the security of this country.

To the numerous official documents, and written or printed authorities, which we have perused, we shall refer as the occasion may require, and shall, therefore, now only give, as briefly as we can, such a general view of the means, which, during different periods, have been taken for providing a naval force for the defence of this country, and for the civil government of the navy, as may render it unnecessary to be so full in those references, or in our observations upon them, as for the sake of clearness might otherwise be requisite.

The whole of our naval history may be divided into three periods: the first, comprehending all that preceded the reign of Henry the Eighth; the second, ending with the restoration of Charles the Second; and the last, coming down from the restoration to the present day.

During the first period, it appears, that our kings had neither arsenals nor dock-yards; their only permanent naval force consisted of fifty-seven vessels, each carrying twenty-one men and a boy, well armed and fitted for war, which the Cinque Ports

Ports were bound, by their charters, to furnish on forty days notice from the crown. When, in case of war, a greater force was required, ships were hired from merchants at home, or from those in Dantzic, Hamburgh, Lubec, Genoa, and other ports, or were fitted out from various motives by private adventurers, who shared in the advantages acquired: trading vessels, having, in those times, no protection from ships of war belonging to their respective governments, were necessarily armed for their own defence.

The foundation of the navy of England was laid by Henry the Eighth. He constituted an admiralty and a navy board, and during his reign, the Trinity-house, and the dock-yards at Deptford, Woolwich, and Portsmouth, were formed: the regulations which he made for the civil government of naval affairs were, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, revised, arranged, and turned into ordinances, which form the basis of all the subsequent instructions given to the officers, to whom the management of the civil affairs of the navy has been committed.

The officers then appointed were, the vice-admiral of England; the master of the ordnance; the surveyor of the marine causes; the treasurer, comptroller, general surveyor of the victualling, clerk of the ships, and clerk of the stores.

Particular duties were allotted to each member; and they were ordered to meet once a week at the office on Tower Hill, to consult together, for the good order of the navy, and to report their proceedings once a month to the lord high admiral.

But the ships belonging to the crown, or provided by the civil department of the navy, still formed only a part of the naval force employed in time of war. In the fleet by which the Spanish armada was defeated, there were 176 ships with 14,992 men, of which only 34 ships, with 6225 men, belonged to the crown; and this mode of adding to the naval force by hired ships, appears to have been continued down to the end of the 17th century.

No considerable alteration in the civil government of the navy took place from the reign of Edward the Sixth, 'till the year 1609; when, in consequence of many abuses which were complained of, the principal officers were suspended; and commissioners were appointed, with powers to manage, settle, and put the affairs of the navy into a right course; and to take such measures as they might deem necessary, to prevent the continuance of the many great frauds and abuses which prevailed. A similar commission was issued in 1618; and a very full, able, and minute report, was made by the commissioners then named, in which those frauds and abuses are detailed and explained; a very distinct account of the state of the navy,

at the time, is given, as well as of its state during the four preceding reigns; and many very wise regulations are suggested.

That commission was determined upon the death of James the First, but was renewed by his successor, and remained in force 'till 1628; when it was dissolved, and the affairs of the navy were restored to the management of the board of principal officers, which had been established by Edward the Sixth.

During the disturbances in the reign of Charles the First, the managing officers were directed by the king to refuse obedience to the orders of parliament; and a number of ships having been carried away by Prince Rupert, the naval force was, by these means, reduced to so low a state, that at the beginning of Cromwell's usurped government, he had only 14 ships of war of two decks, and some of these carried only 40 guns; but under the careful management of very able men, in different commissions which he appointed, such vigorous measures were pursued, that in five years, though engaged within that time in war with the greatest naval power in Europe, the fleet was encreased to 150 sail, of which more than a third part had two decks. The navy was indeed raised by him to a height which it had never before reached; from which, however, it again declined, during the short and feeble administration of his son, at the latter part of the second period.

(To be continued.)

Memoirs of the Most Honourable the Marquis Cornwallis.

(Concluded from Page 264.)

ON the 14th of February, 1780, Lord Cornwallis experienced a heavy domestic affliction in the loss of his amiable and beloved partner. At the period when this nobleman was about to quit England, Lady Cornwallis, inconsolable at the idea of parting from him, after urging every plea that affection could suggest, applied to his uncle, then archbishop of Canterbury, who, at her request, procured the king's leave of absence. But, notwithstanding all the fondness of the husband, duty prevailed over affection, and a nice sense of honour urged her much-loved lord to leave her. The separation was too much for her to bear; she literally fell a prey to love, sunk beneath the weight of her grief, and died; affording a singular instance of conjugal affection. By this lady, Lord Cornwallis had a daughter married, in November, 1785, to Mark Singleton, Esq. of the guards, son of Mr. Singleton, member

member of the Irish parliament, and a son, the present marquis, who was born at Culford-hall, October 22, 1774.

The recreant general Arnold, having abandoned the service of his native country, and done great mischief to it in the Chesapeak, Lord Cornwallis resolved to effect, if possible, a junction with him; this he did on the 20th of May, 1781. He immediately went in pursuit of the forces under the celebrated La Fayette, who, however, decamped with such celerity, that they could never could come up with him. Sir Henry Clinton, apprehensive for the safety of New York, thought proper to censure this step of Lord Cornwallis; this produced a coolness, which ended in a dispute, and appeal to the public; his lordship, however, in obedience to orders, abandoned Portsmouth, and concentrated his forces at York and Gloucester, Sir Henry promising speedy succours. This was the origin of all the misfortunes which succeeded. The combined American and French armies immediately invested the forces now drawn into York town, with the full resolution of holding out 'till the promised relief arrived. The English commander being at length reduced to the alternative of either surrendering or attempting an escape, preferred the latter, and actually conceived the idea of crossing the river, surprising Brigadier Choise, who was posted on the other side, mounting his own infantry on the cavalry of the vanquished, and thus effecting a retreat infinitely more glorious than any victory. In pursuance of this design, the light infantry, &c. were accordingly embarked in boats, and transported to the Gloucester shores, in the course of the night; but a violent storm having arisen, the troops were driven much lower than was intended, and prevented, during a considerable time, from returning. In this distressful situation, and destitute even of ammunition, with no tidings of the long expected relief, his lordship unwilling to expose his gallant army to an assault, consented, on the 17th of October, to capitulate; the terms were on the whole, not unfavourable.

Lord Cornwallis, on his return, had the happiness to find he still possessed the esteem and confidence of his country. He lived retired, to repose himself after the fatigues he had suffered, 'till the critical affairs of the East India company called for a person who could unite the statesman with the soldier; and, at the same time, esteemed by both king and people. Lord Cornwallis being designated as that person, the high and important situation of governor-general of Bengal was conferred on him, with the honour of the order of the garter.

The war with Tippoo Sultaun, which soon after took place, having been protracted for some time under the direction of the Madras government, Lord Cornwallis left Calcutta on the 12th of December, 1790, and took upon himself the command

mand of the grand army. His lordship, although before Seringapatam, from its formidable state of defence, and the want of provisions which he experienced, was obliged to defer the conclusion of the war to another campaign. Early in the ensuing spring, the British army once more appeared before a place, the capture of which every one looked to, as the period and the reward of his labours. A junction with the Bombay army having been effected, the regular approaches were made, redoubts were raised, and had it not been for some unlucky events, in respect of which his lordship was entirely blameless, the sultaun, stripped at once of his capital and power, would have been prostrate at his feet. As it was, however, the sultaun was obliged to surrender part of his dominions, pay a large sum of money, and give up two of his sons, as hostages for the due performance of the treaty. This splendid conclusion of the war established our Indian security, and was the first step to the annihilation of the Mysore power. Lord Cornwallis's disinterestedness, in a region where the object of most of its visitors is merely to enrich themselves, by amassing money as speedily as possible, ought not to be passed over without a tribute of applause. Returning once more to Europe, he now promised himself a life of quiet and ease: but scarcely had he reposed from his Asiatic labours, when he was called upon to allay the horrors of civil war, which then raged in the sister kingdom, aggravated by a system of torture, plunder, and military bondage, which must consign to infamy those who thus disgraced the annals of our country. He was invested with the power of lord lieutenant; and the mild administration of this patriotic statesman soon disarmed the rebellious or disaffected; and the enemy who had actually invaded the country, were captured. Before the vice-regal powers were conferred, his sovereign created him a marquis, and admitted him a member of the privy council; the lucrative office of master-general of the ordnance was also granted him. Towards the latter part of this nobleman's administration, when the subject of the union was agitated, his popularity suffered some diminution, from an attempt, it was asserted, on his part, to overcome the freedom of debate by official dismissions. Some difference of opinion also arose on the question of catholic emancipation, which at length (in 1801) induced the marquis to resign. In the treaty of peace, which took place at Amiens, he filled a diplomatic situation of considerable importance.

Marquis Cornwallis, when last appointed to the government of India, where he arrived the latter end of 1805, was in his 67th year; and his accepting the duties of so arduous a station, at so great distance too from his native scenes, proves how paramount the interests of his country were to every

other consideration. His death occurred at a moment truly critical; at a moment when men of similar talents and judgment are more than ever required. It has been justly observed, that he was calculated better than any man to cure the wounds inflicted by our Indian system. His inflexible integrity and his moderation would have reconciled those native powers who had always placed the most unbounded confidence in his word, and had never reason to repent of the pledges they accepted. His character has been thus summed up.—"Marquis Cornwallis was the wisest governor of India, and the only one who encouraged a system of peace and conciliation. His idea of the government was that of a territory not to be extended, but improved—a country not to be oppressed but reconciled. His character was happily conformable to the principles of his government; age and temperament had cooled his ambition, and given him views above it. Simplicity and honesty were the strong traits of his character; and such was his moderation and benevolence, that, secure from every false temptation of glory, he spurned the mean ambition, the inglorious rapacity, the ignoble avarice, of trampling upon, exterminating and plundering the subject-powers of this vast empire, and swelling the train of Indian vassals. But above all be abhorred that low intrigue, so well known by the name of subsidiary treaties. Too generous to govern by intrigue, too honest to rule by force, he was desirous to lay the foundations of his government in the common acknowledgment and perception of its justice. His code of Indian law was humanity." Immediately on his arrival, the noble marquis had taken on himself the fatigues of his high office, and was proceeding into the interior to assume the command of the army in person, when he was attacked with a violent fever, which in three days terminated his valuable existence. He died at Ghazeepoor, in the province of Benares. The present marquis married Louisa, one of the daughters of the duke of Gordon, on the 17th of April, 1797.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

Saturday, October 12, 1805.

Fort William.

WITH sentiments of the deepest sorrow and regret, the government announces the decease of the most honourable Charles Marquis Cornwallis, knight of the most noble order of the garter, governor-general of the East India company's possessions, and commander in chief of his majesty's and the honourable company's land forces in the East Indies.

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This afflicting and greatly to be deplored event took place on Saturday the 5th instant, at Ghazeepore, in the province of Benares, where his lordship had arrived, in his progress to join and to assume the personal command of the army in the field; as well as for the purpose of accomplishing other important objects, intimately connected with the interests of the state.

During a long and active life, distinguished by eminently honourable and arduous exertions in the service of his country, this illustrious and revered nobleman manifested all the energies, combined with all the virtues, which can dignify exalted station, and adorn the sphere of private life.

As a patriot, a statesman, a warrior, and a man, the character of Marquis Cornwallis shines with distinguished lustre.

The records of the British empire in Europe and in Asia bear ample testimony to the splendid and important services rendered by him, in different quarters of the globe, to his sovereign and his country.

To the East India company, the memory of Marquis Cornwallis is peculiarly endeared. To the service of his country in India were devoted some of the most vigorous years of his valuable life; and there, at an advanced period of it, it has pleased divine providence to terminate his earthly career of honour and of glory.

British India will ever be proud to associate with its happiness, its prosperity, and renown, the grateful remembrance of its venerated benefactor, Marquis Cornwallis; and the native powers of India will sincerely regret a man, who so deservedly possessed their unbounded confidence, and highest esteem.

By his sovereign, and his country, the death of Marquis Cornwallis will be deplored as a public calamity. Europe at large, to whom his fame and his virtues have long been familiar, will lament the loss of such exalted and respected worth; and history will record his magnanimity, his benevolence, his love of justice, his inflexible integrity, his ardent valour, his wise and prudent policy, as eminently worthy of imitation and of praise.

The flag of Fort William to be immediately hoisted half staff high, and to continue so until sunset.

Minute guns, sixty-six in number, corresponding with the age of the deceased, to be fired from the ramparts of Fort William.

Similar marks of respect, with the solemnities suitable to the mournful occasion, to be paid to the memory of Marquis Cornwallis, at all the principal military stations and posts dependant upon this presidency; and copies of the preceding orders to be transmitted to the government of Fort St. George,

Bombay, and prince of Wales's island, and also to the government of the British possessions on the island of Ceylon. By order of government.

J. LUMSDEN,
Chief secretary to government.

The Calcutta Gazette of the 26th of October states, that at a general meeting of the inhabitants, it was resolved—

"That in addition to the general mourning, which has been adopted, as a public token of the concern felt by this settlement on the death of Marquis Cornwallis, a mausoleum be erected, with the permission of government, over the place of his interment at Ghazeepore, as a memorial of esteem and reverence for his virtues, and of gratitude for his eminent services."

Committees were at the same time elected for India and Europe, to carry the above resolution into execution. The committee for Europe consists of Lord Teignmouth, General A. Ross, Colonel A. Kyd, Sir J. Gore, and G. A. Robinson, esq.

The court of directors of the hon. East India company, after ratifying the vote by which the honours of sepulture had been decreed to Marquis Cornwallis in India, agreed to wear mourning during the space of one calendar month, as a testimony of their respect for the character of this nobleman, and as expressive of the regret with which they suffered the deprivation of his services.

Lord Cornwallis appears uniformly to have disdained the mercenary trade of politics. It has already been stated, that, on the question concerning the "bill for securing the legislative power of Great Britain over the American colonies," he was one of five peers who refused their assent to the measure. This ineffectual opposition being headed by the venerable Earl Camden, Lord Mansfield took occasion to rally their leader, on account of the youth of his associates. "Poor Camden!" exclaimed the then chief justice, "could you only get four boys to support you?"

Notwithstanding some difference in opinion among our parliamentary heads, as to certain measures adopted by Lord Cornwallis during his administration of the government of Ireland, his conduct, in other respects, has lately received the unqualified approbation of both houses of the British legislature. All parties concurred in admiration of his various talents, and in acknowledging the splendour of his achievements.

He, indeed, largely contributed to that union of interests and power, which, it was hoped, would have consolidated the resources of the British empire! Whatever dissentions, there-

fore, formerly attended the discussion of this momentous transaction, certainly the most important one in the history of our domestic polity, every friend to the empire must ardently deprecate the revival of sentiments that can tend only to subvert the best expectations of our common country, "Unity and invincibility!!" and gratify the malignity of our common enemy.

Of inconsistency respecting the union with Ireland, Lord Cornwallis is not to be accused. He supported the claim for catholic emancipation, and resigned his vice-regal powers when that claim was afterwards rejected.

FEMALE FASHIONS *for* APRIL.

Full Dresses.

A Loose robe of undressed crape over a dress of white satin or sarsnet, embroidered all round with silver; the sleeves quite plain, and embroidered to correspond with the dress. A tiara of silver, or steel, adorned with gems or cornelians. White gloves and shoes. A round dress of fine muslin over white sarsenet. Broad lace let in down the front and round the bottom. The bosom quite plain, trimmed with a quilling of lace, and ornamented with a medallion or broach. A long silk shawl, the ends embroidered in colours. The hair dressed with a bandeau of velvet and diamonds. White gloves and shoes.

Head-Dresses, &c.

A turban made of an Indian shawl, ornamented in front with a medallion. A turban of very thin muslin, finished with a long end from the top. A small round cap of thin muslin; the front ornamented with worked vine leaves. The hair dressed with a tiara. A morning dress of thick white muslin, made up close to the throat with a collar. Necklace and armlets of cornelian. A straw hat turned up in front.

General Observations.

The favourite colours are pea-green, lilac, and yellow. Spring pelisses of soft silk of various colours are worn, but not generally. Spencers and mantles are more worn. Feathers have almost entirely disappeared, both in full and undress. Small wreaths of flowers painted on lace, are much used for the dress of the head.

VISIONARY

VISIONARY FEAR.

[From Cardinal De Retz's Memoirs.]

IT often happened that, at the end of our conferences, we took a walk in the garden, and there the late Madame de Choisi proposed one day to go to St. Cloud; and, in a jesting manner, told Madame de Vendome, that we ought to divert the bishop there with a play. The good prelate, who was a great admirer of Corneille's tragedies, said he should make no scruple of hearing one, provided it was out of town, and the company was but small. So the thing was agreed upon, and the whole company was to consist only of Mademoiselle de Vendome, Madame de Choisi, Monsieur de Turenne, Monsieur de Biron Voiture, and myself. Biron undertoook for the players and the music, and I took the collation upon myself; we went to St. Cloud, where players, who acted that evening before the cardinal, at Ruel, could arrive but late. The bishop was pleased with the music, Madame de Vendome, whose daughter danced, could have looked on her for ever, though the young lady danced alone; in fine, we were so long amused there, that the day began to dawn. The days were then at the longest.

When we came to the descent of the Bons-Hommes, just at the bottom of it, our coach stopped short. I was seated at one of the boots by Mademoiselle de Vendome, and I asked the coachman what made him stop? He answered me all in a fright, "Will you have me drive over all the devils in Hell, which I see here before me?" I have always been short sighted; so that, though I looked out, I could not perceive any thing. Madame de Choisi, who sat with Monsieur de Turenne at the other boot of the coach, was the first that perceived from within the coach what occasioned our coachman's fright. I say from within the coach, for five or six footmen that stood behind it were crying out, Jesu Maria, quaking already for the fear they were in. Madame de Choisi's cries soon drove M. de Turenne out of the coach. For my part, I thought we were beset with highwaymen, and I got out of the coach likewise. I took one of the footmen's swords, which I drew, and went to join M. de Turenne on the other side. I found him looking stedfastly on something I could not see. I asked him what he was looking on. He jogged me on, and, with a low voice, said—"You shall know, but we must not frighten the ladies." The truth is, some of them rather roared and howled than any thing else, Voiture began an oremus. You have heard how piercing a voice Madame de Choisi had. Mademoiselle de Vendome was at her beads, whilst her mother would have confessed herself to the good bishop, who said to her—"Be not afraid,

daughter, you are in the hands of God." The Count de Biron was on his knees, with all the footmen singing the litanies of our blessed virgin. All this, as you may well imagine, passed at the same time, and in an instant. Monsieur de Turenne, who had drawn the little sword he wore by his side, after he had looked about a little, turned himself towards me, and said, with the same air as he would ask for his dinner, or have gone to battle, "Let's go towards them!" "Towards whom?" replied I; "for, in truth, I began to think they had all lost their senses. "Why towards those devils, for they may be devils for aught I know."

We had, by this time, advanced some steps towards the Savonnerie, and consequently came nearer the pretended devils, so that I began to perceive something. The first appearance seemed to me a long procession of black sprights; the sight of which, at first, put me into greater trouble than Monsieur Turenne had been in. But reflecting at the same time I had long wished to come at the sight of spirits, and that I was likely to see some here, it put me into a quicker motion than M. de Turenne's way allowed him to use, and I gave two or three jumps towards the procession I had seen. Those we left in the coach, who thought us engaged with all the devils in Hell, increased their cries; yet there were others more frightened than they; for, you must know, the reformed barefoot Austin-friars, who are called black-friars, were our pretended devils. When they saw two men coming towards them, with sword in hand, you may imagine how great their fear was. One of them detached from the rest, said aloud to us—"Gentlemen, we are poor friars, who design no one any hurt, and we are going to cool ourselves in the river for our health." Upon this we went back to the coach, ready to split our sides with laughing, and each of us made a reflection at that moment we told one another the next morning. M. de Turenne protested to me that the first appearance of these pretended sprights afforded him some pleasure, though he always thought he should be frightened if he saw any thing of that nature. And I owned to him, that, though I had all along wished to see an apparition, yet, at the first, I was not without some fear. We made a second observation, which was, that the account given us of most of the lives which have been written is not to be relied on. For M. de Turenne protested to me that he was not seized in the least degree with fear at the adventure which I have mentioned, though he owned he gave me occasian to think so, by his slow motions and looks. And when I owned to him that I was at first seized with some fear, he protested he would have sworn to the contrary, having seen in me no other appearance that that of courage and alacrity.

INTERESTING

INTERESTING TRIAL.

RICHARD PATCH for the MURDER of Mr. BLIGHT.

SESSIONS-HOUSE, HORSEMONGER-LANE, SURREY, SATURDAY, April 5, 1806.

SO universal was the interest excited by this trial, that as early as six in the morning the sessions-house was beset by a concourse of persons. As the hour approached which was appointed for the opening of the court, the impatience of those who had been several hours in waiting for admittance was such, that the numerous constables in attendance were scarcely able to preserve a passage for the law officers, and others to whom ingress was allowed; few other persons were permitted entrance, and they consisted principally of the dukes of Sussex, Cumberland, and Orleans; Lords Portsmouth, Grantley, Say and Sele, Montford, Deerhurst, and Lord G. Seymour; Sir John Frederick, Sir John Shelly, Sir Thomas Turton, Sir William Clayton, Sir J. Mawbey, Count Woronzow, &c.

The prisoner, Mr. Patch, was conducted into court soon after nine o'clock, and took his station at the bar, attended by two or three friends. He was genteelly dressed in black, and perfect composure marked his countenance and manner.

Precisely at ten o'clock the Lord Chief Baron Macdonald took his seat on the bench. So excessive was the crowd become in the court at this time, wedged by an assemblage that pressed at the door-ways from the exterior, that it was some time before a jury could be got together. Those who were in court could with difficulty, though assisted, on answering to their names, move towards the box allotted to them.

Mr. Patch peremptorily challenged three jurors, viz. Mr. James Brown, of Battersea; John Tanner, of Grove-lane; and James Kite, of Putney, tailor.

The following jurymen were then sworn:

Charles Smith, of Merton,	John Wedge, of Wandsworth,
Thomas Daley, of Barnes,	Thomas Bartlett, of Merton,
John Leighton, of Putney,	George Moore, of Putney,
John Cape of Putney,	George Smith, of Putney,
Isaac Illiar, of Mudd,	Dan. Longton, of Wandsworth,
Henry Wood, of Putney,	Thomas Chapman, of Putney.

Mr. Knapp, the clerk of the arraigns, then stated to the jury the nature of the indictment. It charged the prisoner, Richard Patch, on the 23d of September last, in the parish of St. Mary, Rotherhithe, upon Isaac Blight made an assault, and with a pistol shot at him, giving him a mortal wound, of which

mortal

mortal wound he died the next day, and so the said Isaac Blight, of his malice aforethought did kill and murder: to this the prisoner pleaded *Not Guilty*, and put himself upon the country.

Mr. Pooley briefly opened the case on the part of the prosecution.

A most profound silence now prevailed, and a very strong interest was excited, when

Mr. Garrow, as leading counsel for the prosecution, rose, and detailed the circumstances and facts of the case. He stated, that he had the honour of addressing them as counsel for the crown, in a case which was of the most awful and serious nature, and one which would demand their undivided attention. In judging of this case, when it was presented to them, they would look only to the evidence. His address to them they must consider merely as an index to that evidence; but they would not decide on any observation which might fall from him, because those observations were only meant to facilitate their consideration of the evidence, and were intended to have no other weight on their minds. They were rather unusually assembled on that day, and it was fit to say a word upon that subject. For one he had to thank his lordship for it. The country had to thank his lordship, and, above all, the prisoner at the bar had to thank his lordship for it. The case they now had to try unfortunately had been too often partially and erroneously detailed in the public prints, so much so, that it was not adviseable to try it at the usual place, and in the usual course. If the jury had at any time read any thing of it, he hoped they would dismiss it from their minds. If they had heard any thing of it, it was equally their duty to forget all they had so heard. He trusted they would recollect the oath they had taken, "to make a true deliverance between the country and the prisoner according to the evidence," and only according to the evidence. Having said thus much, he would next proceed to state to them the relative situations of the prisoner and the deceased—he would state to them the nature and situation of the premises where the murder was committed, from whence, in his judgment, it would result that it was utterly impossible that Mr. Blight should meet his death from any other hand than that of the prisoner's. He would detail other circumstances from which the same result would naturally follow. To these he would add other circumstances, in which he thought he traced the hand of providence detecting the murderer's guilt.

Mr. Blight, the deceased, was by trade a ship breaker, in the neighbourhood of Greenland Dock; and he had for a menial servant, a sister of the prisoner Patch's. In the spring of 1803, the prisoner first came to visit his sister, and at her request he

was suffered to remain in Mr. Blight's house for that night. At the time he represented himself as very distressed, having failed in business in the west of England, and was very desirous of entering into Mr. Blight's service upon any terms. Mr. Blight received him, and at first for merely his victuals and drink. He continued some time, and being a good servant, Mr. Blight gave him 30l. a year wages. He next boarded himself, and then Mr. Blight gave him 100l. per annum. In the year 1805, Blight became embarrassed in his circumstances; upon which occasion the prisoner took an active part in his concerns, and Mr. Blight did that which certainly could not be commended—he made a transfer to the prisoner of his property, in the trade for the nominal sum of 2500l. In fact, this transaction was meant to deceive Blight's creditors, and the deeds were to be produced, or not produced, as circumstances should require. In August, 1805, Mr. Blight's family went to Margate, but before that period, he had entered into a new agreement with the prisoner, by which he was to conduct the business at one-third of the profit, and for which he was to pay twelve hundred and fifty pounds. It might here occur to the jury to ask, how the prisoner, who so short a time before was distressed, could procure such a sum as 1250l. In fact he did pay 250l. which perhaps he might have as the wreck of his former property, and there remained due 1000l. to Mr. Blight. To discharge this sum of 1000l. he gave a draft upon one Goom, a glue-maker, and his representation to Mrs. Blight was, that he had sold a little estate in the west, and lent Goom the money. On the 16th of September, when this draft became due, he represented that Goom would not be able to take up that draft, and that therefore it was withdrawn, and another substituted, becoming due on the 20th of September. On the 19th, Blight went to Margate to visit his wife, and it was material to see how the prisoner was engaged from that period. He accompanied his friend as far as Deptford; he then went to the banker's, where the draft was to be paid in, and told them that Goom could not face the draft, but that he had obtained another note which was satisfactory, and therefore desired them not to present it for payment. They accordingly did not present it. Thus much had already passed on the 19th of September, which the jury would find a most important day. In the evening of that day being alone with Kitchener, the servant-maid, he sent her for six penny worth of oysters for his supper. While she was absent, a gun was fired through the window-shutter. Patch, the prisoner, came to the door, and then he saw a man and woman, of whom he enquired whether any one had passed the gates. He was told that no one had come out of the yard. That shot (said the learned counsel) I charge was fired by no hostile hand, but by the prisoner himself,

self, who had in view the catastrophe which was afterwards perpetrated. From the nature of the premises it was impossible that the shot could be fired but by one close to the window.—Nor could the person who fired it escape by any avenue but the gate, and there at that moment, by providence, happened to be more than one witness, who must have seen if any one had so escaped.

The learned counsel then detailed the circumstances which will be found in the evidence applying to this transaction. He then related, that the prisoner wrote to the deceased at Margate, informing him of what had passed, and desiring him to return home. Mr. Blight returned to town on Monday the 23d, and the first enquiry he made was, whether Goom had paid the 1000l. note. The prisoner led him to believe it was forthcoming, and he went from Deptford to London to procure it, with an express inhibition, on the part of Blight, not to return without it. He however did return without the money.

The learned counsel having thus far stated the introductory parts of the case, described the circumstances which took place on the evening of the 23d, when Mr. Blight was shot; the manner of committing the deed; the conduct of the prisoner afterwards; his behaviour to the persons who offered their assistance; his insinuations with respect to Webster's son, or Clarke, being the murderers; but, above all, he inferred the utter impossibility of any one but the prisoner having fired at the deceased. This he made manifest, not only by stating the evidence of the persons who were passing by the premises in various directions, when the report was heard, and who saw no one escape, but also by exhibiting a model of Mr. Blight's house and yard, by which it appeared that any one attempting to escape must have been discovered.

The remainder of the learned counsel's observations will be found detailed in the testimony of the witnesses—they related chiefly to his demeanour subsequent to the murder, and particularly as to a pair of white stockings having been found in his bed-room with the soles dirtied, as if by walking on the timber wharf without shoes. He also stated that a ramrod of a pistol had been found in the privy. He concluded an address to the jury of two hours, by praying that the searcher of hearts, from whom no secrets were hid, would enable them to discharge their duty to the public and the prisoner, by a verdict consonant to the principles of justice.

(To be continued.)

ORIGIN *of the* WORD BENEFICE.

THIS term was not formerly used as expressive of the clergy, but to signify the funds given to soldiers for their

past services as rewards, and these soldiers were called *miletes beneficiarii*. It may be seen in the book which treats of fiefs. This name afterwards passed into ecclesiastics, to whom the like funds were given for their snbsistence; and they have also been called benefices, because in effect they enjoyed such benefices.—Their true origin appears not to have been known before the 12th age, when the revenues of the church were divided; whence came the new law upon this matter, the knowledge of which the popes retained to themselves. This cannot be true in general, as there are some vestiges of benefices to be found from the year 500, under Pope Symmachus, but it was not common. At that time, a clerk who had served the church well had a field given him in fund, from which he drew his subsistence, which was then very rare, because ecclesiastics lived then on the alms which were given them, and divided amongst them every month, as it appears by the canons of some councils. The oblation was made after the gospel to the 12th age; and it is yet what is called offertory at the mass. This oblation was laid aside when the friars called mendicants were introduced into the church, for then the people left off making their offerings. When the offering was presented, a whole psalm was sung, from whence the word offertory was derived. There are to be found, in one of the canons of the first council of Orange, some vestiges of the foundation of benefices.

REFLECTION.

THE serious mind views with great regret that disgusting levity which treats the most important subjects lightly, and which even the thoughts of eternity can hardly make grave.

A QUESTION, *by W. Wilson, Mathematician, at Crowling-Green.*

INGENIOUS artists, whose industrious skill
Is sure to find, seek after what you will,
Name me the prize* that bravery's favourite gains
When crown'd with laurels on Britannia's plains.

* The word denoting this requisition is composed of four letters; the sum of their four places in the alphabet is equal to 24; the product of their four places, less 12, is equal to 348; the rectangle of the three last letters is equal to 60; and the product of the first, second, and fourth letters places is equal to 30: Required the word, denoting this requisition by a quadratic equation.

Answer, by T. Gill, Officer of Excise, near Wells, to the Young Gentleman's Charade, inserted February 10.

AT IVYBRIDGE, in Devon, I believe,
You mean this welcome kind we may receive.

*** A similar answer has been received from T. Coumbe, of St. German's.

Answer, by S. Moore, of Horswell House, to J. Whittle's Rebus, inserted Feb. 10.

THE HART, my good Sir, or I greatly mistake,
Is the beast you selected your rebus to make.

☞ We have received a similar answer from H. Glasson, of Praze; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; J. Lewis, of Poole; G. Coulman, of Broadhempston; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; T Coumbe, of German's; M. Duncan, jun. of Plymouth; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; and J. Salter, of Broadhembury.

Answer, by Primrose, of Taunton, to T. Bullock's Charade, inserted February 10.

WHEN the bright king of day recedes from sight,
The MOON around displays her milder LIGHT;
While countless orbs, in graceful order shine,
Acknowledging their Maker's "hand divine."

*** Similar answers have been received from T. Coumbe, of St. German's; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; H. Glasson, of Praze; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; H. Stoneman, of Exeter; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; John Day, of Winborne; R. Trewavas, of Mousehole; W. R. jun. of Yealmpton; John Whittle, of Upway; George Coulman, of Broadhempston; J. Woodman, jun. of North Curry; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; J. Colling, jun. of St. Dominick; R. Lukes, of Lanlivery; J. Lewis, of Poole; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; N. Vincent, of St. Austell; M. Duncan, jun. of Plymouth; J. Waldron, of Lyme Regis; W. Lawrence, and Corporal Ninnis, of the St. Agnes volunteers; and W. D. and W. Cross, of Bristol.

An ANAGRAM, *by Castor.*

THREE English letters do compose my name,
Forward and backward you may read my name;
I am a pleasant tipple, known full well,
Made no great way from Brixham town to sell.

A REBUS, *by W. Cross, of Bristol.*

A Title of the glorious sun;
A place round which the sea doth run;
A once brave hero, now in earth laid low;
A town in Kent is next, which you must know;
An old sea-god, then bring to sight;
A town in Berks, and you'll be right:

When these you've join'd, in order true,
A town in Wilts you'll bring to view.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

To the Memory of the Right Honourable William Pitt.

WHEN friends or parents quit this earthly stage,
Tho' great their loss, by few that loss is felt;
When lovers fall amidst the battle's rage,
The hearts of weeping maids in sadness melt.

The tragic muse, with sorrow most sincere,
In plaintive strains now wails a nation's fate;
While Britons sighing, start th' unconscious tear,
And mourn the guardian angel of the state.

Britannia weep! for thee the patriot died,
For thee he sacrific'd repose and health;
To save thy state his talents he applied,
And labour'd more for freedom than for wealth.

His plans, concerted for his country's weal,
Had yet the strength of party to oppose;
But such his perseverance, and his zeal,
He triumph'd o'er his most invidious foes.

Discreet in council, in the senate firm,
In all his measures public virtue shone;
His wisdom turn'd aside impending storms,
Which menac'd Britain's government and throne.

His life devoted to his country's cause,
His country's gratitude at least demands;
And vain as is the tribute of applause,
His virtues claim that tribute from their hands.

Enough tho' some may deem it to commend
"The electricity of his orations,"
Sufficient to deplore their country's friend,
"In silence and becoming desolation."

Yet others different sentiments express,
Desirous to perpetuate his fame;
And sure a grateful nation cannot less
Than on a marble to inscribe his name.

But what can all the honours here conferr'd
Avail him dead? what recompence be giv'n?
His virtues will insure a rich reward
From the great judge of all, the God of Heav'n.

Then let us cease to mourn his loss on earth,
Since now he lives in realms of bliss above;
And whilst we contemplate the statesman's worth,
We'll crown his memory with virtuous love.

Kingsbridge, March, 1806.

For

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SPRING.—*A* SONNET.

IN beauteous garb see smiling spring appear;
Reviving nature all her charms renew;
The fertile fields assume a verdant hue,
And woods and groves their wonted liv'ry wear.

Bleak Boreas now no more, with blustering force,
Sweeps the rude mountains, and the lowly vales;
But bland zephyrus swells the gentle gales
Soft o'er the plains and stream's meandering course.

And as around the bright vivific rays
Of lustrous Sol the boundless prospect cheer,
While all creation greets the youthful year,
And joyous tunes the grateful, flowing lay,

Let man awake the noblest, loftiest strain,
To praise the great Almighty Power divine!

Taunton. PRIMROSE.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

DIVINE LOVE.

GIVE me that harmonious lyre!
Let me strike th' extatic wire!
Lo! I burn with heav'nly heat,
And my rapture is compleat.

Love descending, drowns my sight,
In most exquisite delight:
Love descending from on high,
Lifts me, lifts me to the sky.

Heav'nly Sire! Redeeming King!
Lo! thy praises will I sing:
Let thy attributes inspire
With the most exalted fire.

Let a worm his God adore!
Let a wretch thy grace implore!
O! prepare his longing breast
To enjoy eternal rest.

Those bright prizes he would win
For the vict'ry over sin:
Let him, let him nobly try,
To possess the promis'd joy.

Let him, let him not despair!
Lord! thy anger who may bear?
Let thy mercy interfere,
Tear him from this sinful sphere.

Bid, O! bid him joyful rise
To the everlasting skies;
There let him his God adore,
And be blest for evermore.

Sherborne. B. A.